II.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system including a computer hardware device for addressing denial of service attacks directed at a web resource, comprising:

a system for detecting improper requests; and

a system for responding to improper requests ~~that issues an HTTP "OK" response code when an improper request is detected~~, wherein a request is deemed improper if a message body associated with the request has a zero length, and wherein the system for responding to improper requests includes a response protocol that utilizes a standard error handling procedure for a first improper request from a requesting resource, issues an HTTP "OK" response code for N subsequent improper requests from the requesting resource, and then stops responding to the requesting resource altogether.

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2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system for responding stops issuing HTTP "OK" response codes and issues no response after a predetermined number of improper requests are detected.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein a request is deemed improper if the request is received from an unexpected host.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein a request is deemed improper if an HTTP "post" or an HTTP "get" command is expected and neither an HTTP "post" nor an HTTP "get" command is received.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein a request is deemed improper if the request includes a HTTP "post" or "get" command with unknown arguments.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the HTTP "OK" response code comprises an HTTP 204 "OK" message code.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the web resource comprises a server.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for addressing denial of service attacks directed at a web resource, comprising at least one computing device for processing the steps of:

receiving messages at the web resource;

analyzing each message and determining if the message is improper, wherein a message is deemed improper if the message is neither an HTTP "post" nor an HTTP "get" command when one of these commands is expected, or the message includes a HTTP "post" or "get" command with unknown arguments;

storing the source address of a message if the message is improper;

responding to a first improper message from an identified source address with an HTTP error response;

responding to a set of $\underline{N}$ subsequent improper messages from the identified source address with HTTP "OK" response codes; and

stopping responses to the identified source address for all received improper messages after the set of $\underline{N}$ subsequent improper messages have been responded to.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein a message is deemed improper if the message is received from an unexpected host.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein a message is deemed improper if a message body associated with the message has a zero length.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the HTTP "OK" response code comprises an HTTP 204 "OK" message code.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the HTTP "OK" response comprises an HTTP 200 "OK" message code.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program product for addressing denial of service attacks directed at a web resource, comprising computer readable program code for performing the steps of:

receiving messages at the web resource;

analyzing each message and determining if the message is improper;

storing the source address of a message if the message is improper;

responding to a first improper message from an identified source address with an HTTP error response;

responding to a ~~set first predetermined number~~ of $\underline{N}$ subsequent improper messages from the identified source address with HTTP "OK" response codes; and

stopping responses to the identified source address after ~~the set a second predetermined number~~ of $\underline{N}$ subsequent improper messages have been ~~responded to received~~.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The program product of claim 17, wherein a message is deemed improper if the message is received from an unexpected host; if the message has a zero length; if the message is neither an expected HTTP "post" nor an expected HTTP "get" command; or if the message includes a HTTP "post" or "get" command with unknown arguments.

20. (Original) The program product of claim 17, wherein the HTTP "OK" response codes comprise HTTP 204 "OK" response codes.

21. (Original) The program product of claim 17, wherein messages that are deemed proper are passed to the web resource for further processing.

22. (Original) The program product of claim 17, wherein the web resource is a web server.